

Town of Canandaigua Cemetery Committee  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 9:00 AM  
Notes (Draft)

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Meeting Called by: Karen DeMay, Committee Chairperson

Committee Members present: Judy York, Dave York, Karen DeMay, Dennis Brewer, Doug Stone.

Others present: Richard and Donna West, Leif HerrGesell Town Historian, Arlene Reeves, Patty Steele, and on Zoom, Cody Grabhorn from the Ontario County Historical Society.

The meeting was opened at 9:00 AM by Chairperson, Karen DeMay.

Minutes of October 3, 2023, were reviewed, one amendment to wording was accepted. Minutes as amended, unanimously approved.

Mary Schneiter submitted her resignation due to a change in employment requiring extensive travel. She regrets the need to resign but will be happy to help whenever possible. Karen DeMay recommended the appointment of Dennis Brewer to fill Mary's unexpired term through 2025. Mary's resignation was accepted, and Dennis' appointment was unanimously carried by the committee members.

Mr. Ellison's contract was discussed. He did not get all work done as planned, likely due to last spring and summer's weather. We will move forward sooner in the 2024 calendar year to approve his agreement.

Discussion followed regarding mission statement and policies of the committee. We should develop a mission statement in 2024. What policies do we need? When to place flags on veterans' graves was priority discussion. How will we protect the flags placed? Rich West offered to work on tubing to be placed at the gravesites where it least disturbs the maintenance work such as mowing and weed whacking. This will be investigated. He would work on tubing if the town provides materials.

The committee discussed Wreaths Across America. The team of Judy York, Donna West, Betty McMahon, and Karen DeMay have plans well underway. Speakers at Hunn and Academy will include Senator Pam Helming and Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan among others. The team will firm up the program and share with everyone when available. Information has been posted on the town website.

Cody (on Zoom) asked about the organization, WAA, and its goals and rules. Donna West and others explained the successful growth of this effort to place wreaths on every veteran's grave in America. It began with Arlington National Cemetery and has grown to well over 4,000 cemeteries throughout the United States. Everyone was reminded of the website, [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) and encouraged everyone to look at it. The Town of Canandaigua is proud to participate this year.

Doug Stone's term of office will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Doug agreed to stay on for another term of office to expire 2028. The committee thanked him and agreed that his input is valuable and much appreciated.

2024 goals:

1. Scheduling cemetery work. We will try for more work dates, and we will invite others outside the committee membership to work with us.
2. Work to formulate policies of the committee as well as a mission statement.
3. Continue contracting with Peter Ellison, and we will see if we can encumber any unused amount of his contract for next year.
4. The committee by motion of Judy York, seconded by Dave York, agreed to have Leif proceed to commit funds (a combination of funding from the History Team, Historian, and Cemetery Committee) to begin work on ordering a kiosk for Academy Cemetery.

Important dates:

Next Meeting: ~~December 5, 2023 at 9:00 AM.~~ **To Be Determined at a later date.**

Wreaths Across America Ceremonies, December 16, 2023, Noon, simultaneously at Hunn and Academy Cemeteries.

The meeting concluded at 10:15 AM.

Notes by Karen DeMay